

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2554 without my signature as it would risk public safety by limiting the authority of the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) to take disciplinary action against emergency medical technicians (EMT's).

By law, the LEMSAs are responsible for ensuring the delivery of quality emergency medical care and must be allowed to suspend or revoke a certificate if the EMT's actions endanger patients, co-workers or the public. This measure is in direct conflict with California's health care licensure system that requires independent medical oversight of licensed and certified professionals, including doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians. To ensure patient safety and promote quality health care, disciplinary action cannot be limited to that taken by an employer.

While I am unable to support this bill, I believe improvements in the oversight of EMTs are needed. For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature and encourage stakeholders to work with the Legislature and the Health and Human Services Agency to craft legislation that will protect public safety, reduce duplicative enforcement, and support more consistent oversight of EMTs.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger